

# **POINT DEFIANCE AND TAHLEQUAH TERMINAL SITING FEASIBILITY STUDY**

## **PREFACE**

WSF has a dual responsibility – providing reliable and safe service now and into the future. While working diligently to operate within the current budget and preserve existing facilities, WSF must also always be looking forward, and planning for improvements that will keep the system viable into the future. This long term planning allows WSF to anticipate future problems and plan for them now.

A big challenge facing WSF is making the ferry system financially sound over the long term. One of the ways WSF can save money and contribute to financial viability is to operate the system as efficiently as possible. To help accomplish this, WSF is striving to maximize the operational efficiency of the fleet by minimizing the different classes, or types, of vessels to achieve more interchangeability of those vessels between routes.

## **PLANNING FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES**

When future challenges on a route are identified through long range planning, Terminal Engineering's capital projects program is tasked with developing possible solutions. These solutions must consider both system-wide needs and route-specific needs. When challenges are identified, a project team is formed, and the team starts by thinking broadly about possible solutions or ways to take advantage of future opportunities.

One of the tools the project team uses to determine if solutions are technically workable is a feasibility study. Feasibility studies are used to determine if a potential solution to the problem has fatal technical flaws and, if so, should not be considered as one of a suite of solutions to the problem. It is important to note that feasibility studies are not intended to study all possible solutions to a problem, they are not in-depth technical studies and they do not include community values or considerations. They are simply a way for the project team to decide if a potential solution might work, not whether it should or should not be selected as a course of action. Feasibility studies are used only to help the project team investigate whether a potential solution is technically possible and are neither decision documents nor action plans.